

April 8, 2022

To: Zionsville Town Council

Subject: Historic District Commission

I am writing regarding the ordinance for forming a Historic District Commission. I am in favor of forming such a commission.

I am a 26-year resident of the village in the town of Zionsville. I have seen significant change over the course of my residence. Some of the change is favorable, some unfavorable.

I note that the Town of Zionsville invested and promoted a considerable upgrade to the facades of the buildings on Main Street consistent with the early 20th century style that has become an important part of the brand of the Town of Zionsville. Within the village between Elm and Sixth Streets, and from Hawthorne to Ash, there are many examples of a wide variety of early 20th century architecture styles that are an extension of the style and brand that has been so carefully restored and maintained on Main Street.

Recently however, just a few blocks away from Main Street, a number of houses have been built that represent egregious exceptions to both the scale and style that has defined the village for decades. Like the petals around the center of a daisy, the houses in the village provide important context and extension of the charm and character so carefully preserved and enhanced recently on Main Street. Unfortunately, this context is being lost very quickly. Each house that is built in exception to the long-standing dominant theme of the village permanently erodes that character and charm. We need to move quickly to limit further damage before this charm is lost permanently.

I am aware that the Historic District Commission is responsible for the whole town and may consider preservation districts in other areas, but the need in the village is urgent. We need to get the commission in place so that we can then get the commission to quickly create a preservation district in the village area.

Thank you for your time listening to and considering my position on this important and urgent issue.

Tony Cluff
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